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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(Release on receipt)

SUBJECT: "Beyond the Call of Duty"--Information from the Office of Supply,
Commodity Credit Corporation, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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A woman in New York State...answered the doorbell one day...and was asked to help out in her spare time in a food processing plant...in her hometown. She was told that the plant faced the most serious shortage of labor in its years of operation...15 hundred acres of tomatoes on nearby farms were almost ripe...and that more than half of them were earmarked for the Armed Forces. The plant needed help.

The homemaker thought it over...and finally decided to give it a try. She and 271 other people in this small town...plus 50 Navy volunteers from a nearby station...went to the plant...and worked when they could.

Some of them worked full time...others worked for a morning or afternoon...while still others went in for an hour or so.

When the peak period came other citizens responded...students from both the high school and the teachers' college...business men...more homemakers and war workers.

Soon the job was done...and the community settled back to its usual routine. They had not thought the work they had done at all extraordinary. The government, however, thought differently...for it recognized that this food plant had been faced with an emergency...which might have resulted in a great loss of food...and they had met the situation well.

The Government has a way of expressing thanks to such plants. The highest recognition it gives for outstanding accomplishment in food processing...is the Department of Agriculture's achievement "A" Award. The plant in New York State

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certainly deserved it...and the award was made in a ceremony at the local high school.

A Navy Commodore presented the plant award. It is a green flag...displaying a large "A" and a single star which serves as a symbol of achievement. A head of wheat...on one side of the "A"...represents Agriculture...and a half gear on the other side...signifies processing.

Then a representative of the Department of Agriculture presented the "A" pins to the employees of the plant. All of them received pins...but only a few representatives were called to the stage.

These included two plant employees for 16 years...the assistant bank manager representing businessmen volunteers...a high school volunteer...a college worker...a representative of the Navy...and a homemaker.

These people...and all other workers...were thrilled when the Navy Commodore said... This is not a reward any more than a medal given to a hero on the battle front is a reward. It is our Government's way of saying officially: "You have done a job beyond the call of duty."

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